

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-2, 8, 11-19, 22-27, 29, and 32 are pending in the application, with claims 15, 29, and 32 being the independent claims. Claims 15, 29 and 32 are amended with the subject matter of claim 3. Claim 3 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Action on page 2, section 4, claims 1-3, 14-19, 22, 24-27, 29 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,923,845 to Kamiya et al. (hereinafter Kamiya). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As amended, claim 15 recites a method for sharing objects among a community of users, wherein each user is associated with a respective set of attributes such that at least one attribute is common to at least two of said users, the method comprising executing the following steps for each user in the community: (a) providing a user replica that includes objects that are assigned, each, with at least one attribute; (b) providing a set of containers associated, each, with attributes

from among said set of attributes, *wherein at least one of said containers is associated, each, with at least one essential attribute*; (c) providing a user interface for generating an update in said replica; (d) submitting the update stipulated in step (c) to the replicas of selected users; (e) receiving at least one update from at least one user in the community and updating said user replica with the so received update; and (f) selectively displaying, through the user interface, at least one container, wherein *an object is displayed in said container if a condition applied to at least one of the attributes of the container and at least one of the attributes of the object is met*, and wherein said condition includes a sub-condition that is met if the attributes of said objects contain said essential attributes.

Without admitting the applicability of Kamiya in other respects, Kamiya fails to teach at least two limitations of claim 15. First, Kamiya does not teach that an object is displayed in the container if a condition applied to at least one of the attributes of the container and at least one of the attributes of the object is met. The Action correlates the display in FIG. 17 of Kamiya with step (f) of claim 15. Specifically, the Action asserts that the collector for Paul in FIG. 17 displays objects whose read/write attributes match the collector's read/write attributes. While it may be true that the read/write attributes of the collector contents match the read/write attributes of the collector, Kamiya does not teach that the collector's contents will only be displayed if a condition applied to at least one of the attributes of the container and at least one of the attributes of the object is met. There is no suggestion in Kamiya that a condition has been applied to the read/write attributes of the collector's contents. Therefore, Kamiya does not teach that an object

is displayed in the container if a condition applied to at least one of the attributes of the container and at least one of the attributes of the object is met.

Second, Kamiya does not teach wherein at least one of said containers is associated, each, with at least one essential attribute. The Action asserts (in reference to former claim 3, now incorporated into claim 15) that FIG. 8 and col. 15 lines 25-33 of Kamiya imply that only documents related to a newsgroup topic are placed into a collection with an attribute related to the same topic. However, Kamiya does not teach that the collectors are associated with an attribute. Kamiya only teaches that the articles in one collector can be topically related to each other and to articles in another collector. The topics of Kamiya are not the attributes of the present invention. The collector 831 described in Kamiya is a newsgroup where the only enforcement of the topical relationship between the newsgroup articles is performed by the human moderator, John. John could decide to allow an article to be posted that did not relate to the topic of the newsgroup. In that case, or in an unmoderated newsgroup, the article would still be transferred to the collector 853. Therefore, Kamiya does not teach that at least one of said containers is associated, each, with at least one essential attribute.

Therefore, claim 15 is allowable.

Claims 1-3, 14, 16-19, 22, and 24-27 are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim.

Claims 29 and 32 are allowable for the same reasons as those given for claim 15.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Action on page 6, section 6, claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamiya in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,163,317 to de Judicibus. In the Action on page 7, section 7, claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamiya. In the Action on page 7, section 8, claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamiya in view of “Grassroots” by Kamiya et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 23, 8, and 11-12 all depend from claim 15, and are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim, as discussed above. Further, the ‘317 patent and the “Grassroots” article do not make up for the deficiencies in Kamiya with respect to claim 15, therefore no reasonable combination of the references as suggested by the Action teaches the present invention.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for

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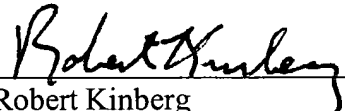
any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the

Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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